

# HELP RESTORE THE WINDMILLS

## Victorian Alliance House Tour

*in*

**ALAMO SQUARE**

*to benefit the*

**WINDMILL  
RESTORATION FUND**

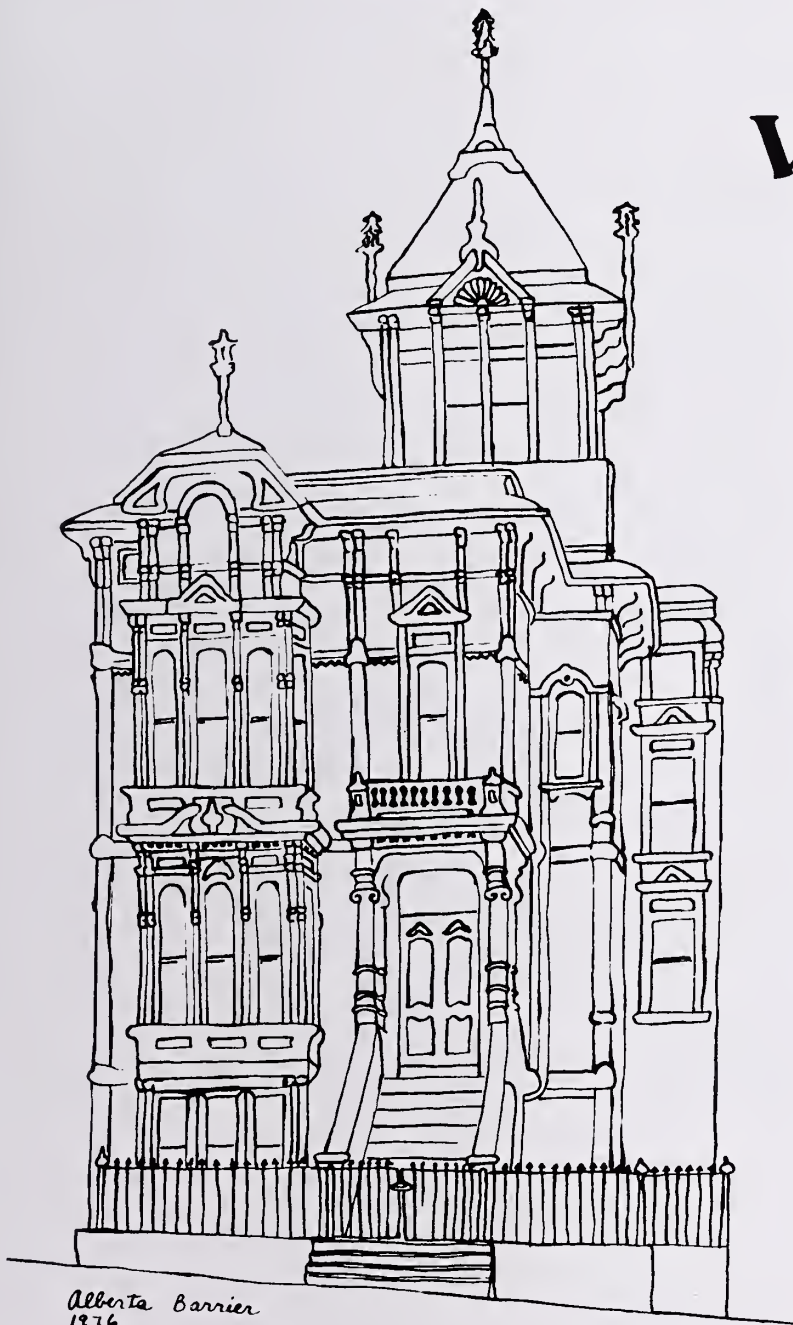
*Sunday - June 12, 1977*

*1-5 PM*

**TOUR STARTS AT 1045 SCOTT STREET  
(between Turk and Golden Gate)**

**\$7.50 DONATION INCLUDES  
CATALOG AND REFRESHMENTS**

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- 9 HOUSES - OLD FAVORITES PLUS HOUSES OPEN FOR THE FIRST TIME
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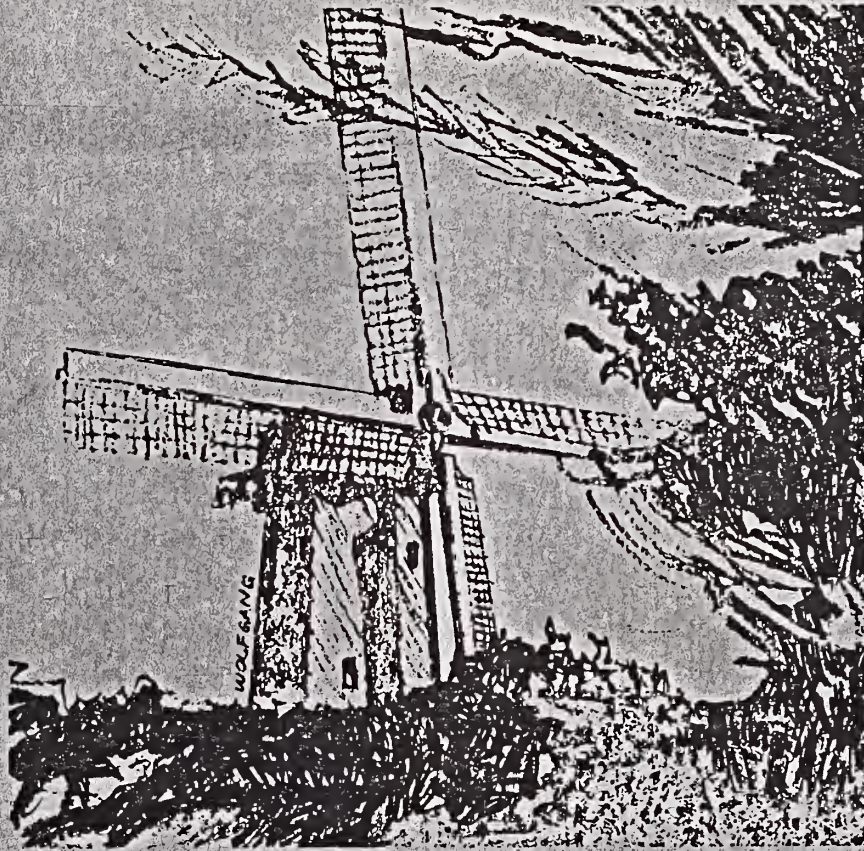
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**FOR INFORMATION CALL 648-2718 or TAG-BOOM**





# HELP RESTORE THE WINDMILLS



*Another Glorious*  
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Welcome to the Victorian Alliance-Windmill Restoration Fund tour of houses in Alamo Square. Visitors on this tour will enjoy walking from house to house along the route which is designated on the map. It was selected for its variety of architectural styles which were popular when this area was developed, and strollers can savor the presently-favored colorful exterior decoration schemes.

This area of the City was at its fashionable height at the turn of the century when the windmills were constructed and, like the windmills, came upon sorry days until concerned private citizens undertook much needed renovation. Restoration of the houses in Alamo Square generally coincides with the start, eleven years ago, of the private fund-raising to restore the derelict windmills in Golden Gate Park.

The Dutch Windmill (1902) and the Murphy (1905) were constructed to irrigate Golden Gate Park. When electricity replaced wind power for pumping water, the windmills were allowed to deteriorate. An eleven-year fund-raising campaign has nearly realized the \$250,000 required for the project. Navy Seabees, contributing their labor, officially commenced the restoration project on 27 June 1976. Proceeds from this house tour will go to the restoration fund.

The Victorian Alliance recently celebrated its fourth anniversary. Its members share an enthusiasm for the preservation and renovation of Victorian structures and, through the organization, participate in the landmarks designation and preservation activities of San Francisco.

The Alliance meets on the last Wednesday of each month and enjoys lectures and demonstrations of renovation techniques and related topics. It also sponsors occasional field trips. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings or to join in on the field trips. The Alliance is also compiling a reference file of resources — craftsmen and materials pertinent to Victorian restoration. The Alliance shares this information with anyone who is interested.

For further information:

THE VICTORIAN ALLIANCE  
4143 23rd Street  
San Francisco 94114  
Phone: TAGBOOM

WINDMILL RESTORATION FUND  
1541 Polk Street  
San Francisco 94109  
Phone: 474-2100

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T.M. DeGuzman / 96

**B**uilt in the late 1860's, this house was connected to the City water system on June 15, 1870. The owner of record at that time was John W. Nye, who was listed as a real estate agent in the 1871-72 City Directory, when the address was given as 1015 Scott Street. Changing house numbers is one of the most harrasing problems that confront house researchers.

**F**rom 1896 to 1930, the house was occupied by Cyril Williams, Sr., with the exception of 1926, when Williams is listed as living at 1010 Scott St. The house shows evidence of having suffered a serious

fire, and it may have been the year after the fire when the Williams family found it necessary to live temporarily across the street. Debris (fishing poles) found within the walls, indicate that the house originally may have had a higher, possibly a Mansard, roof, which was replaced with the present flat roof after the fire. Williams' business career, according to City Directories, advanced from a clerkship, to financial expert, to an accountant's position with the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

**T**his house is a classic flat-front Italianate which still has its original wrought iron fence and gate. The apparent double front door is in reality a single door, camouflaged as a double. In recent years, the house went through a series of disastrous occupancies, and had been condemned when the present owners bought it a year ago. Fortunately, the stair railing and the fireplaces had been protected by multiple layers of paint. One fireplace, not original, has been changed by the owners. The mason who installed the existing French marble antique, says that the arched brick monstrosity which it replaced was typical of the poorly-built fireplaces which were installed all over town to replace ones damaged in the Quake.

**O**riginally, the second floor hallway had doors with transoms to provide light. The present owners changed the doors and added the beautiful skylight you see. It was made in England and is of the same period as the house.

**A**s do several houses on this tour, this house demonstrates the versatility of good original spatial design. The newly-added rental unit on the second floor provides a comfortable, distinctive, and conveniently arranged unit without disturbing the appearance or the function of the original structure.



1451-1453 McAllister



Interior Internationale

**T**his two-story, two-flat Stick-Eastlake was connected to the City Water system on July 12, 1889, for John B. Caritey. The building may be of earlier date, as there were, and are, numerous live springs in the neighborhood. A native of France, his names are variously spelled as John and Jean and Caritey and Carity. He was described as a "Capitalist" in the 1893-94 City Directory. The original street address was 1421-23 McAllister.

**T**he upper flat of this property has traditionally been occupied by the owner of the building, as it is now. It is well preserved, in nearly original condition, with operating gas lights and many original plumbing fixtures.

**T**he lower flat has always been used as an income unit, and because of the continuum of owner-occupancy of the upper flat, the entire building has never suffered the vicissitudes which were experienced by so many properties in the Alamo Square area.

**E**ach flat has three working Victorian fireplaces, still used for practical as well as decorative purposes, even though there is now central heating in the building. The present owner of the building is only the fourth owner since the last heir of the original owner died in 1961.

**T**he contrast of these two flats is dramatic proof of how well identical Victorian premises can be adapted to the tastes and uses of their occupants. The lower flat now serves as the home and busy studio of a successful interior designer.



719 Scott



**W**ater Department records show that water service was connected to this building on 22 October 1895, the owner of the record being Eliza Baum, widow, who is listed in the Blue Books and City Directories of 1895 and after, as living at 1705 Powell Street.

**L**ike all the houses on this tour, this has had its years of opulence, passing through the ownership-occupancy of Henry Ohlandt, son of Nicholas, founder of the German bank and the National Ice Company, and one of the multi-millionaires of the time. After several other owners, and with the

changing character of the neighborhood, it was owned for a time by the Salvation Army, then sold to owners who eventually sold it to the present owners in January of this year (1977). By this time the building had accumulated a long list of building code violations and was involved in complicated legal proceedings meant to lead to condemnation.

**T**his large house is an imposing example of transitional structure, being part typical Queen Anne and part neo-classic revival. The roofline and the cantilevered circular corner bay are Queen Anne; but the exterior ornamentation and the oval window are neo-classic, possibly inspired by the "White City" of the buildings of the Columbian Exposition of the Chicago Worlds Fair of 1892. Note also that the exterior ornamentation is cast plaster, a characteristic that is beginning to replace the cut wood decoration of earlier years.

**T**he spacious rooms have suffered the usual divisions with jerry-built partitions, but the owners plan to restore the interior to its original glory. This house is included on the tour as an example of the condition of approximately all the houses on the tour when they were purchased by their owners and before the start of renovation.

1198 Fulton

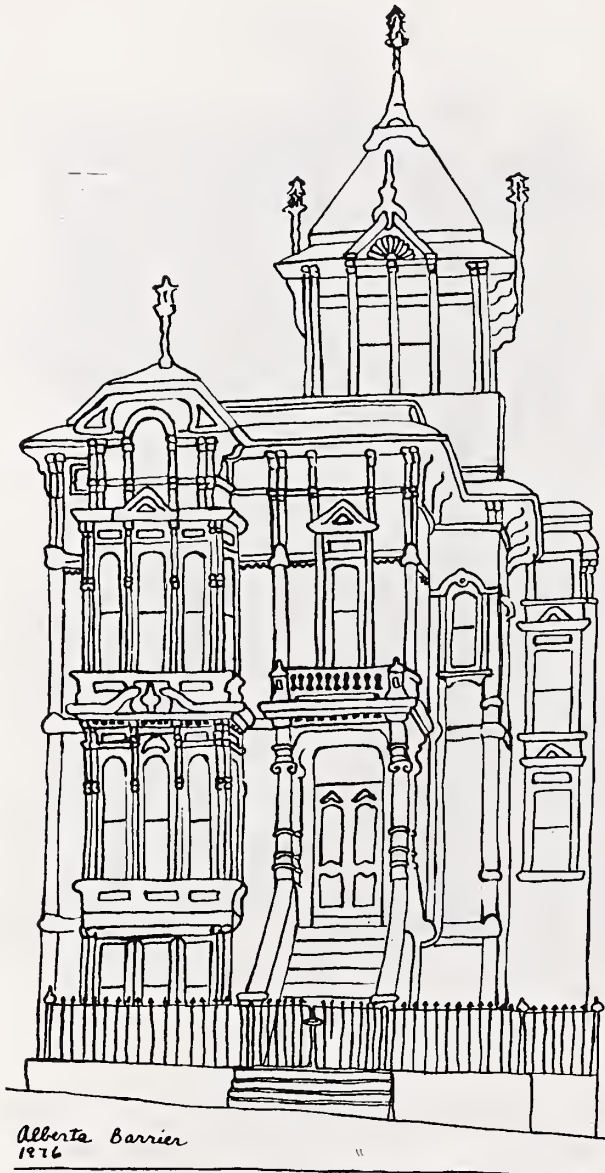
**T**his grandly impressive Stick-Eastlake was designed by Heinrich Geilfuss and was built between 1875 and 1878. It is listed in the Almanach de Gotha for the years 1879, '80, and '81 as housing the Imperial Russian Consulate. City water department records show that water service was connected in 1889 for the then owner, William Westerfield, who added baths and the tower to the building at approximately the same time. Prior to this date, as in many houses in the City, a well on the property furnished water.

**T**he owner from the mid-90's to 1928 was John Mahoney, builder of the St. Francis and Palace Hotels, and re-builder, after the Quake, of hundreds of San Francisco's notable buildings. Mahoney also built the flats to the east of the house on what had originally been the rose garden of the property.

**I**n the mid-30's, the White Russians returned to the building to use it as a social center, where they installed a

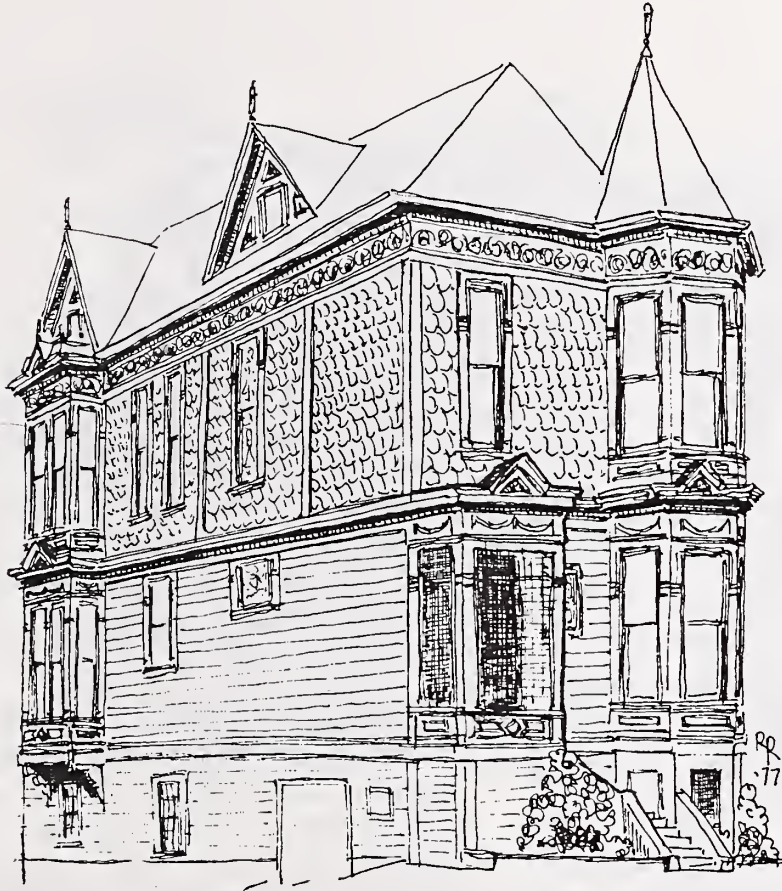
restaurant "Dark Eyes" in the basement ballroom. More recently the building has experienced a varied and sometimes bizarre occupancy thoroughly commensurate with its spectacular architecture. A magician who kept 500 candles burning continually, once lived in the tower room when the house was a rooming house, prior to its purchase by the present owners.

**T**he present interior furnishings are completely in keeping with the grand scale and elaborately carved woodwork of the rooms, resulting in an interior in the romantic aristocratic tradition of northern Europe prior to World War I.





722 Steiner



**M**atthew C. Kavanagh, real estate, is first listed as living at the S.E. corner of Grove and Steiner Streets in the 1893-94 City Directory. Water Department records show that water service was connected on 11 June 1892. This elaborately detailed mansion was the first built, then the one on the adjoining lot, and, finally, the rest of the row along Steiner Street facing Alamo Square. This must be one of the most frequently photographed group of houses in the City, with the high-rise downtown skyline in the background.

**A**s a builder and developer, Kavanagh was quite eclectic in the choice of design and details for his house. Transcending its time, the simple lines and graceful proportions reflect the best of several eras. Appearing to be Eastlake in style, it is really Queen Anne, with typical fish scale shingles. The exterior is free of the heavy applied woodwork that was typical of the period. The subtle octagonal corner bay is reminiscent of the Second Empire style of two decades earlier. One sees delicate touches of neo-classic ornament — laurel swags and acanthus leaves boldly predating trends of decades to follow. In the well thought-out composition, ornament is tastefully subordinate to form, very inconsistent with its time.

**T**his house has experienced the decline that characterized the neighborhood, having held an alcoholic de-toxification center and a nursing home, as well as other occupants, until its purchase and renovation by the present owner. Details of interior wood trim and plaster ornamentation are particularly noteworthy. The stained glass windows in the living room and on the stairs are original and are said to be of German manufacture. The windows in the entry hall, bathroom, and kitchen are of modern manufacture, created by a recent occupant of the house. The ornate mirror over the living room fireplace is an unrestored original, having been brought around the Horn from New York in 1872 for the Fulton mansion at Scott and Oak Streets, from which the present owner recently acquired it.



**T**his house was built for John C. Mitchell, who was listed in the 1873 City Directory as an insurance broker with the Hamburg-Bremen Fire Insurance Company. It was described as a one-family house when the water service was connected on June 5, 1871.

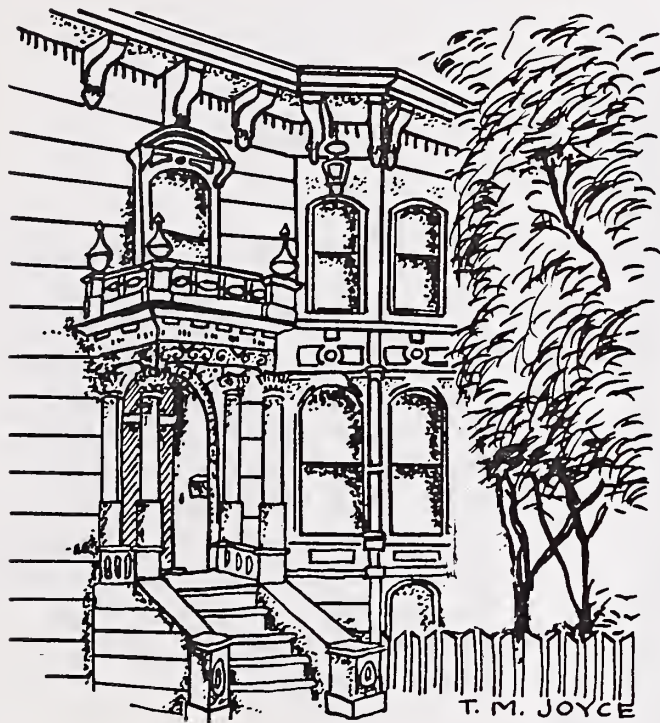
**T**he exterior design combines Italianate and Second Empire details, with the quoins and arches being typical of the Second Empire. The exterior color scheme, while conforming to today's color preferences, is quite appropriate to the period of the house.

**U**pon entering the house, one is quite impressed by the ornate stained glass panels in the front doors. The door panels are original, but the transom containing the house number, although compatible with the door panels, is more recent.

**T**he interior is distinguished by the elaborate plaster ornamentation throughout the house. The original gas fixtures in all the rooms are still in working order. Of particular interest in this house is the painted wood graining which is new. In the dining room, each panel shows a different design. The spectacular marble walls in the bathrooms are also painted. The brass bed is a modern reproduction of a Victorian original.

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**T**his house was built for Philip Steven Fay, a successful real estate and "money" broker. The first house in the block, it was surrounded by a deer park that was traditional for houses of this size. Financial problems caused Fay to subdivide his property in about 1885.

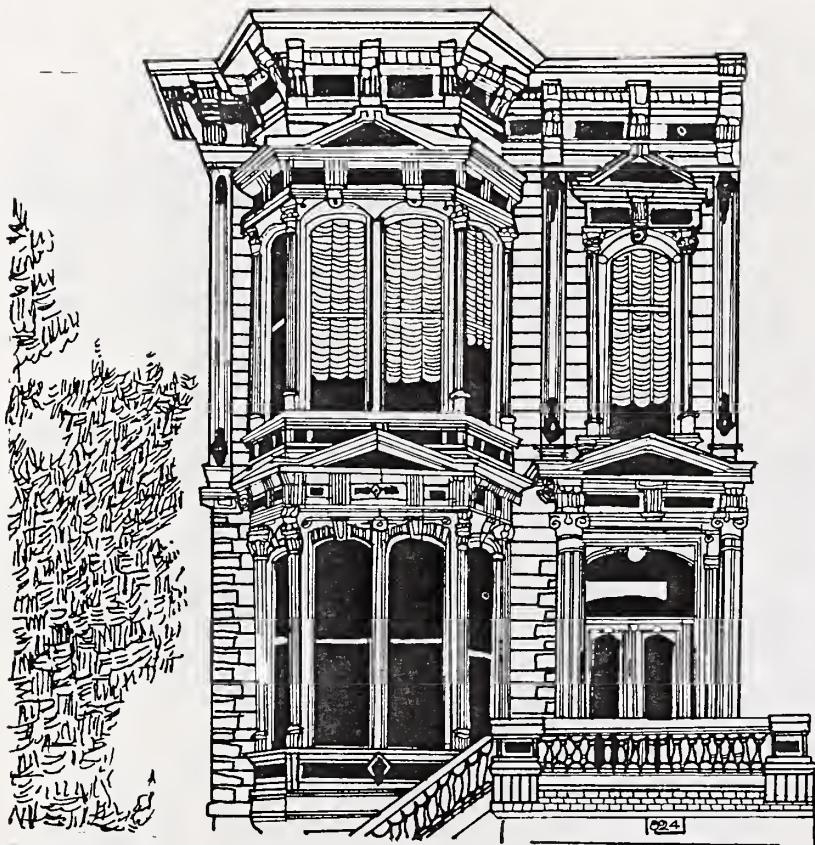
**A** noted example of the classic Italianate style, this house, with its elegant vertical emphasis, is particularly well suited for the relatively limited space available for town houses. Fashion trends may have dictated the selection of the design of this house, even though it was built on a large property.

**T**he redwood detailing is completely original, with the exception of the lower front stairs. The front porch, with its columns capped by Corinthian capitals; the tall, narrow windows and doors; the angled bay windows and the flat, heavily bracketed roofline typify this style of architecture in San Francisco.

**O**riginally, the house had wooden shutters in the living room, which still features an elaborately detailed and decorated ceiling with its working original, ornate gas chandeliers. When the house was new, there were servants' quarters in the basement, and remnants of speaking systems and call-bell mechanisms, which still exist, used to summon the servants from the three upper floors. One of the former fixtures in the kitchen of this house is a large gas stove that can be seen in the house next door at 824 Grove.

**T**he long-time one-family ownership of this house protected it from deterioration longer than other houses in the vicinity, and it didn't slip into the decline of the neighborhood until the late 1950's. Then, in April 1974, new owners bought the house and began the long process of restoration.

824 Grove



M. STEIN '76

**H**enry Brune, of Naber, Alfs & Brune (Phoenix Bourbon Whiskey Co.) employed Henry Geilfuss to design and construct this house in 1886. Water service began in 1886. The Brune family lived here from 1886 through 1906 when, after the fire, they moved to Ross. The family was listed in the San Francisco Blue Book of Society as being "at home" Tuesdays.

**W**hen intervening owners sold the house in the early 1950's, it became the Antioch Baptist Church for over ten

years — the ballroom being used as the church. The minister lived on the main floor and the second floor was used as a flat, then a rooming house. The project of the church to rip off the front of the house and combine the basement and first floor into a new church auditorium was fought by irate neighbors, and the building was bought and then resold to its present owner.

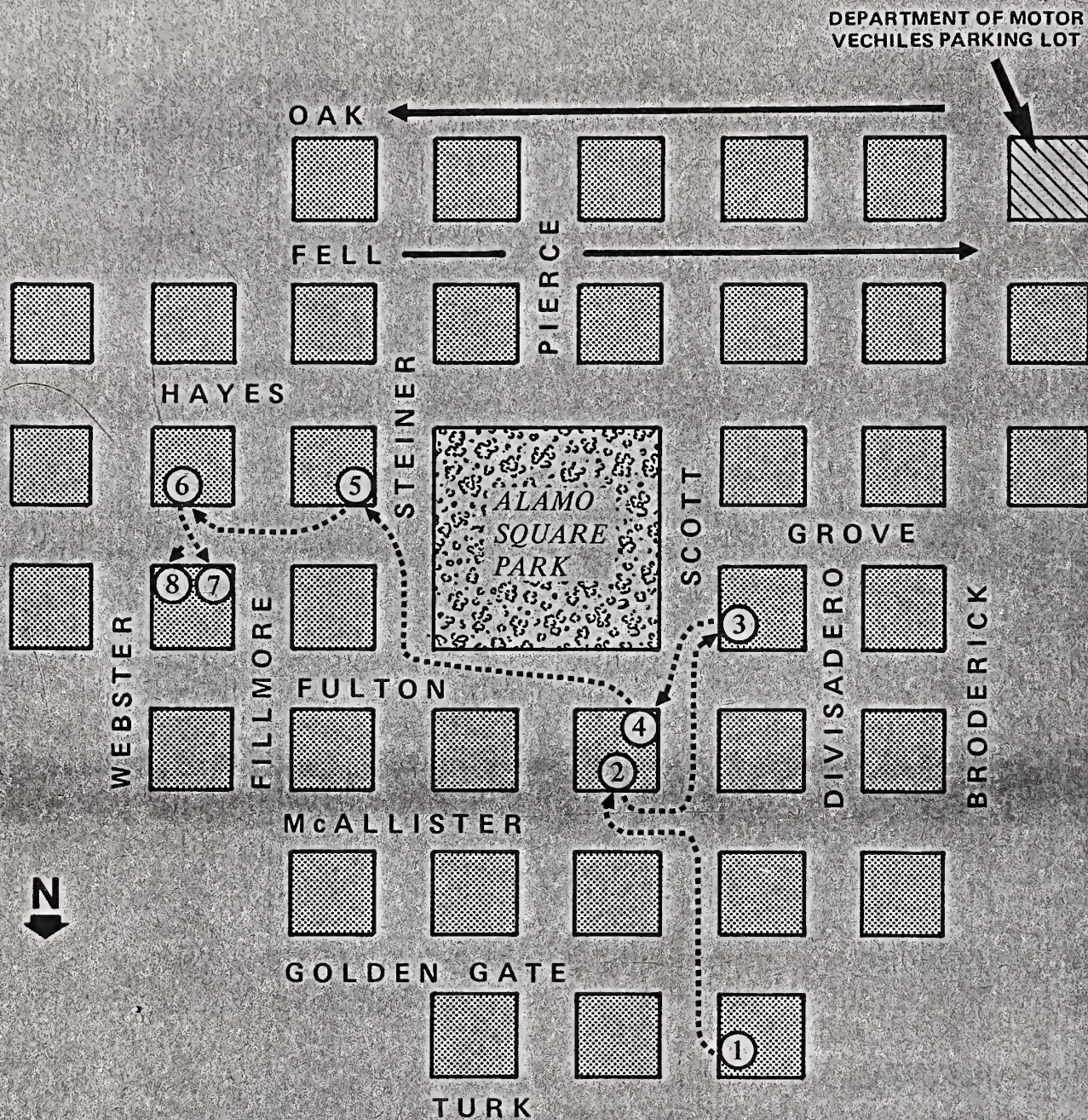
**T**he architecture is basically Italianate with some Eastlake in the exterior decoration. The interior, with its 15-foot high ceilings and classical Greek and Roman woodwork, has a grand scale. The double drawing room is divided by columns with Corinthian capitals; the dining room extends the full width of the house and is dominated by a monumental sideboard. The smaller morning room has an adjoining conservatory which has been re-designed to provide an entryway and light for a small apartment in the former servants' quarters.

**T**he five bedrooms on the second floor take advantage of every usable square foot of space. The main bathroom has its original fixtures (with new copper piping). The house was very modern for its time, with coal-burning central heating; electric starters for the gas lights and bell and speaking tube systems. The front porch was changed in 1972 to incorporate garage, deck and new front stairs.









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|------------------------|---------------|
| ① 1045 SCOTT           | ⑤ 722 STEINER |
| ② 1451/1453 McALLISTER | ⑥ 813 GROVE   |
| ③ 719 SCOTT            | ⑦ 834 GROVE   |
| ④ 1198 FULTON          | ⑧ 824 GROVE   |

FOLLOW THE SCENIC ROUTE FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE

